officials knew it to be a fiction. In the more recent conflicts over the "unequal" clauses in the treaties, especially extraterritoriality, it is the loss of face involved which has been most galling to the Chinese. If only face can be preserved, all sorts of adjustments and compromises can be privately and unobtrusively agreed upon. So, too, in the insistence of Chinese spokesmen that the Nanking Government represented the entire country and was able to guarantee protection to aliens, even when much of the interior was known to be in chaos and the central authorities all but impotent, it was face which had to be observed.

This emphasis on the face of the nation is accentuated by the intense pride of the Chinese. They long regarded themselves as the dispensers of civilization and most of the rest of mankind as barbarians. It has involved much humiliation to confess, even tacitly, that the old culture must be modified or abandoned. Even among Western-trained men there still remains some contempt for the Westerner and a feeling that the latter can never fully understand or rightly interpret the Chinese civilization which is passing.

The emphasis on face may be due to the fact that the Chinese, even more than some other peoples, seem to have the attitude of actors. The theatre has long been one of their favorite recreations, and even the humblest laborer is skilled in assuming a role. Two coolies may have an altercation, storming at each other and seemingly intent on flying at each other's throats, and yet allow the bystanders to hold them back and eventually to make peace between them.

Another possible reason for face is the fact that in a crowded, relatively immobile society such as was the old

China, a man's future depends on preserving a satisfactory station. It was not easy for him to go elsewhere—as he might in a fluid frontier society—and make a new start. Moreover, his family shared in any disgrace which might come to him.

The importance given to face may, too, be the result of the sensitivity of the Chinese. Some observers have declared that Chinese men seem to have many of the temperamental qualities which in the Occident are deemed feminine. However, this distinction may not be so great as appears at first sight. After all, Westerners attach an immense amount of importance to what they call "honor."